

FEB 20 2015

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH AND FUND  
A VETERAN WOMEN SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION WITHIN THE  
OFFICE OF VETERANS' SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, in 2012, the Legislature requested the Hawaii  
2 Office of Veterans' Services and the United States Department of  
3 Veterans Affairs to develop comprehensive programs and services  
4 to address the needs of female active duty military members and  
5 veterans; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Office of Veterans' Services  
8 established the Hawaii military women's task force to study the  
9 needs of women veterans and develop programs to:

- 10  
11 (1) Improve the lives of women who have served or are  
12 currently serving in the military;  
13  
14 (2) Identify and address the unique needs of women  
15 veterans; and  
16  
17 (3) Harness the power of women to influence change by  
18 empowering women veterans through education and  
19 opportunities to improve and increase resilience; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the task force determined that women in the  
22 military face multiple, inter-related, and complex problems,  
23 which include:

- 24  
25 (1) A high rate of military sexual trauma;  
26  
27 (2) Inadequate health care after reentry into the civilian  
28 life;  
29  
30 (3) High rates of post-traumatic stress syndrome;



1 (4) Homelessness; and

2  
3 (5) Unemployment; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, current estimates show that there are between  
6 9,502 and 11,744 women veterans who reside in Hawaii; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, women in the National Guard or reserves for all  
9 military branches have been activated in pursuit of the United  
10 States' interest in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, and  
11 other foreign nations; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services is the single  
14 office responsible for the welfare of all veterans and their  
15 dependents within the State; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the Office of Veterans' Services provides veterans  
18 and their family members with assistance in filing claims with  
19 the Department of Veterans Affairs and serves as a link for  
20 programs and services offered by federal and state agencies; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, a veteran women services coordinator is needed  
23 within the Office of Veterans' Services to aid female active  
24 duty service members and veterans with their specific needs and  
25 issues; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the  
29 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of  
30 Veterans' Services is requested to establish and fund a veteran  
31 women services coordinator position; and

32  
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Veterans'  
34 Services is requested to appoint as the veteran women services  
35 coordinator a veteran or a present member or discharged member  
36 of the Hawaii Air or Army National Guard; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran women services  
39 coordinator, among other duties and responsibilities, is  
40 requested to:



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- (1) Gather and distribute information about services available to women military members and veterans;
- (2) Educate counselors within the Office of Veterans' Services of the services provided to women veterans; and
- (3) Attend national conferences and participate in veterans services workshops to ensure that women veterans have a knowledgeable contact person who is able to direct women veterans to appropriate resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Adjutant General, Director of the Office of Veterans' Services, and Chairperson of the Policy Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

OFFERED BY:

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